

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/000893

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A47G33/12				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A47G				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 3 862 733 A (SULLIVAN HASKELL A) 28 January 1975 (1975-01-28) figure 5	1,4,6, 15-19, 34,36		
X	BE 1 003 629 A (ELHO INTERNATIONAL B.V.) 5 May 1992 (1992-05-05) figure 1	1,4-6, 15,18, 19,34,36		
X	FR 2 280 346 A (TERNY MICHEL GEORGES) 27 February 1976 (1976-02-27) figure 1	1,4-6, 15,18, 19,34,36		
-/--				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.				
* Special categories of cited documents : <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 May 2004		Date of mailing of the international search report 07. 09. 2004		
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Reichhardt, O		

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No. .
X	EP 0 369 633 A (GORDON IAN ALEXANDER ET AL) 23 May 1990 (1990-05-23) figures 2,3	1,4-8, 11-13, 15-18, 34,36
X	US 2 750 138 A (MORRIS MILO WARD) 12 June 1956 (1956-06-12) figure 12	1,4-8, 10, 12-15, 18,19, 34,36
A,P	GB 2 384 697 A (NOBLETT JOSEPH) 6 August 2003 (2003-08-06) figure 1	1,34

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

see annexes

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1, 4-19 (when referring to independent claim 1), 34, 36
(when referring to independent claim 34)

A tree stand including tree gripping means comprising a projection

A method of securing a cut tree in such tree stand

- ~~2. claims: 2, 4-19 (when referring to independent claim 2), 20-29, 33, 36 (when referring to independent claim 33)~~

A tree stand including strengthening means
A method of securing a cut tree in such tree stand

3. claims: 3, 4-19 (when referring to independent claim 3), 30-32, 35, 36 (when referring to independent claim 35)

A tree stand including spacing means
A method of securing a cut tree in such tree stand

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3862733	A	28-01-1975	NONE	
BE 1003629	A	05-05-1992	NL 9000232 A BE 1003629 A3	16-08-1991 05-05-1992
FR 2280346	A	27-02-1976	FR 2280346 A1	27-02-1976
EP 0369633	A	23-05-1990	CA 2002332 A1 DE 68911875 D1 DE 68911875 T2 DK 562889 A EP 0369633 A1 NO 894492 A US 4976411 A	11-05-1990 10-02-1994 26-05-1994 12-05-1990 23-05-1990 14-05-1990 11-12-1990
US 2750138	A	12-06-1956	NONE	
GB 2384697	A	06-08-2003	NONE	